

**Case 3591*****Argyra* Macquart, 1834 (Insecta, Diptera, DOLICHOPODIDAE): proposed conservation of the name by suppression of *Porphyrops* Meigen, 1824**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 (Diptera, DOLICHOPODIDAE), a widely distributed and well-established genus of dolichopodid flies. It is threatened by its infrequently used senior objective synonym, *Porphyrops* Meigen, 1824. It is proposed that *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 be conserved by suppressing *Porphyrops* Meigen, 1824 under the Commission plenary power, in the interest of nomenclatural stability.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; DOLICHOPODIDAE; *Argyra*; *Porphyrops*; *Rhaphium*; *Musca diaphana*; long-legged flies; cosmopolitan.

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1. Meigen (1824, p. 45) proposed the genus *Porphyrops* with 29 originally included species: *Musca diaphana* Fabricius, 1781, *Porphyrops argyrius* Meigen, 1824, *P. argentinus* Meigen, 1824, *P. auricollis* Meigen, 1824, *Dolichopus vestitus* Wiedemann, 1817, *P. aulicus* Meigen, 1824, *Musca quadrifasciata* Fabricius, 1781, *P. leucocephalus* Meigen, 1824, *P. versicolor* Meigen, 1824, *P. crassipes* Meigen, 1824, *P. micans* Meigen, 1824, *P. elegantulus* Meigen, 1824, *P. communis* Meigen, 1824, *P. rufipes* Meigen, 1824, *P. nemoralis* Meigen, 1824, *P. thoracicus* Meigen, 1824, *P. pumilus* Meigen, 1824, *P. riparius* Meigen, 1824, *P. maculipes* Meigen, 1824, *P. fascipes* Meigen, 1824, *P. obscuratus* Meigen, 1824, *P. palmipes* Meigen, 1824, *Musca pallipes* Fabricius, 1794, *P. flavicollis* Meigen, 1824, *P. annulipes* Meigen, 1824, *P. aeneicoxa* Meigen, 1824, *P. flavicoxa* Meigen, 1824, *P. flaviventris* Meigen, 1824 and *P. ochraceus* Meigen, 1824. A type species was not designated.

2. Curtis (1835, pl. 541) designated *Musca diaphana* Fabricius, 1775 (as ‘*Dolichopus diaphanus* Fab.’), the first of the 29 originally included species, as the type species of *Porphyrops*; this is the earliest valid subsequent designation from originally included species.

3. Macquart (1834, p. 456) proposed the genus *Argyra* with seven originally included species: *Musca diaphana* Fabricius, 1775, *Argyra argentata* Macquart, 1834, *Dolichopus vestitus* Wiedemann, 1817, *M. quadrifasciata* Fabricius, 1781, *Porphyrops fulvipes* Macquart, 1827, *P. flaviventris* Macquart, 1827, and *P. annulatus* Macquart, 1827, a genus which he indicated as being equal to the first of three divisions of Meigen's *Porphyrops*. A type species was not designated.

4. Westwood (1840, p. 134) designated *Musca diaphana* Fabricius, 1775 (as '*D[olichopus]. diaphanus* Fab. '), the first of the first seven originally included species, as the type species of *Argyra*; this is the earliest valid subsequent designation of an originally included species. Sixteen years later, Rondani (1856, p. 141) designated the same type species for *Argyra*, which is the type designation most often cited in catalogues (e.g. Foote et al., 1965, p. 524; Robinson, 1970, p. 27; Dyte, 1975, p. 247; Dyte & Smith, 1980, p. 458; Negrobov, 1991, p. 64; Pollet et al., 2004, p. 18; Yang et al., 2006, p. 32).

5. Negrobov (1986, p. 184) proposed ARGYRINI as a tribe of the dolichopodid subfamily DIAPHORINAE Schiner, 1864 based on *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 as the type genus. There are no family-group names based on *Porphyrops*.

6. Meigen (1838) accepted Macquart's *Argyra* for his first division of *Porphyrops* species and he identified his third division of species with *Medeterus* Fischer, 1822, leaving the second division of species to be *Porphyrops* Meigen sensu stricto. Meigen's generic concepts of *Argyra* Macquart and *Porphyrops* Meigen being treated as separate were followed by others in the early literature (e.g. Rossi, 1848; Walker, 1851; Loew, 1861; Gerstaecker, 1864; Williston, 1888). Then, when some species of *Porphyrops* were found to belong to the older genus *Rhaphium* Meigen, 1803 in the RHAPHIINAE Bigot, 1852, subsequent papers treated *Porphyrops* as a junior subjective synonym of it (e.g. Johnson, 1925; Curran, 1930; Van Duzee, 1930). Coquillett (1910, pp. 509, 594) was the first to synonymize *Argyra* with *Porphyrops*, noting that the same type species had been designated for each. Soon after this, *Porphyrops* dropped out of usage as a valid genus (with the few exceptions noted below) and *Argyra* is the only one of the two names that has consistently appeared as a valid genus of the subfamily DIAPHORINAE in the literature.

7. With the generic concept as currently understood, *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 is a widespread genus of long-legged flies in the subfamily DIAPHORINAE in the family DOLICHOPODIDAE Latreille, 1809, is found in all the world's zoogeographical realms except the Australasian/Oceanian, and contains over 100 described species (Germann et al., 2011).

8. Unfortunately, *Argyra* cannot be given precedence over *Porphyrops* under Article 23.9.2 of the Code, as *Porphyrops* has been used as valid since 1899 (e.g. Smith, 1900; Kincaid, 1904; Meunier, 1907; Coquillett, 1910; Britton, 1920; Karl, 1935; Thomas, 1971).

9. *Argyra* has appeared as a taxonomically valid genus in no fewer than 35 papers by 31 authors in the last 50 years, including all the major regional Diptera catalogues (except the Australasian/Oceanian where the genus does not occur) and world catalogue of DOLICHOPODIDAE (Dyte & Smith, 1980; Negrobov, 1986; Pollet et al., 2004; Robinson, 1970; Yang et al., 2006) (a full list of these papers is kept with the Commission Secretariat). In contrast, *Porphyrops* has appeared as a taxonomically

valid genus in only one publication in the last 50 years (Thomas, 1971; the single new species described in it having since been transferred to the genus *Rhaphium*), and entries for *Porphyrops* in recent regional and world catalogues were as a synonym of *Agyra*, with the recommendation that an application should be submitted to the Commission to request conservation of *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 over the older *Porphyrops* Meigen, 1824 to ensure stability of nomenclature and taxonomy for the generic name *Argyra*.

10. Foote et al. (1965, p. 524) indicated that an application to conserve *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 had been made, but the Commission Secretariat, when asked about it when the current paper was being written, could find no record of such an application.

11. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to conserve the name *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 by suppressing its objective senior synonym *Porphyrops* Meigen, 1824 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Argyra* Macquart, 1834 (gender: feminine), type species *Musca diaphana* Fabricius, 1775 by subsequent designation by Westwood (1840);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *diaphana* Fabricius, 1775 as published in the binomen *Musca diaphana* (specific name of the type species of *Argyra* Macquart, 1834);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name ARGYRINI Negrobov, 1986, type genus *Argyra* Macquart, 1834;
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology, the name *Porphyrops* Meigen, 1824 (gender: feminine), type species *Musca diaphana* Fabricius, 1775 by subsequent designation by Curtis (1835).

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